(c) whether any representative of Government has visited any such festival;

(d) whether Government have prepared a list of yoga teachers of repute in foreign countries; and

(e) whether her Ministry is aware about the European Yoga Festival held in BLOIS in France in July every year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of India in association with the State Government have developed new innovative tourism products targeting international and domestic tourists to promote Ayurveda and Yoga as aspects of health tourism. The Government extends help and financial support to State Governments to organize festivals such as International Yoga Festivals, Yoga Mahotsavs, development of Yoga Dhyan Centers and Herbal gardens to attract tourists. Some State Governments like Kerala have launched a scheme to classify and approve Ayurvedic Centres on the basis of quality of services provided and facilities.

The Department of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Sidha and Homoeopathy) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have also prescribed guidelines for accreditation of Ayurveda centres.

Tourist attraction in Orissa

4074. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Central Government propose to frame a policy to attract tourists in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Orissa State is a hub of tourist attraction; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Central Government to help the cash-strapped State to exploit this potential to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The promotion of Indian tourism products is an ongoing

process, which involves development of tourist facilities of world class quality. The Department of Tourism has already undertaken a branding exercise to communicate one clear image of Indian across the globe through its print, electronic and outdoor media. A National Tourism Policy has been formulated since 2002.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has prioritized development of the following schemes in consultation with the State Government of Orissa for granting Central financial assistance during the current financial year-

Destination:	1. Chilka
Tourism Circuit:	1. Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark
	2. Simplipal-Chandipur-Talsari-Panchalingeshwar
	3. Araku Valley-Sunabeda-Koraput-Malkangiri
Event/Festival:	1. Sreekshetra Vasant Utsav
	2. Ekamra Utsav
	3. Puri Beah Festival
	4. Konark Festival
Rural Tourism projects:	1. Daringi Badi Village, Phulbani Distt.
	2. Kheliyajali Village

Linking up of Central Libraries

4075. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to inter connect and link all the Central Libraries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds to be provided for same; and

(d) the stage at which it stands at present?